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DESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1945

URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. R. G. Marlow (Chairman),
Messrs. S. J. B. Barnes, J.P., R. G. Coe, E. Marlow, M.C., J.P., C.C.,
G. T. Pateman and G. W. Turner.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the
Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell
the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of
Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton-
shire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.R.S.I.

Public Health Department,
75, London Road,
Kettering,

July, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Desborough Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bosworth and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health
and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1945.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee for their support and also to the Clerk,
and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Harris, for his willing help and
co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Vital Statistics

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Area (acres) 2400 2400 2400 2400 2400					
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) 4854 4707 4643 4316 4226					
Number of Live Births 57 60 78 100 66					
Legitimate 57 58 71 88 59					
Illegitimate — 2 7 12 7					
Birthrate per 1,000 population ... 11.74 12.74 16.79 23.16 15.61					
Number of Still Births 3 1 2 — 1					
Legitimate 3 1 2 — 1					
Illegitimate — — — — —					
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 50 16.39 25 — 14.92					
Rate per 1,000 population 0.61 0.21 0.43 — 0.23					
Number of Deaths 51 50 51 55 52					
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude) 10.50 10.62 10.98 12.74 12.30					
Total Maternal Deaths — — — — —					
(a) Puerperal Sepsis — — — — —					
(b) Other Puerperal Causes — — — — —					
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 52.63 Nil 56.33 40.00 15.15					
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis 2 4 1 3 1					
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2 4 1 2 —					
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 10 5 9 8 9					
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... — — — — —					
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) — — — — — —					
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age — — — — —					

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	2,400
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ..	4,226
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	1,403
Rateable Value	£21,491
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£84

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:—
Boot and shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

LIVE BIRTHS.	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
		35	24
Legitimate	59	35	24
Illegitimate	7	4	3
Totals	66	39	27

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. 15.61

STILL BIRTHS.	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
		1	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	14.92

DEATHS.	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
		52	27
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

12.30

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis

Nil

Other Puerperal Causes

Nil

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..

Nil

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births

15.15

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births

16.94

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births

Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ..

Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)

9

Deaths—No "comparability" factor was issued for 1945.

Births :—The following table shows the birth rate for 1945 together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES 1945.

Desborough	..	..	..	15.61
England and Wales			..	16.1

Infantile Mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternity and child welfare.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES 1945.

Desborough	..	..	..	15.15
England and Wales			..	46

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

			MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
All Causes	..	..	27	25	52
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	..	..	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	..	..	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system			—	—	—
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	..	..	1	—	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	..	..	—	—	—
9. Influenza	..	..	1	—	1
10. Measles	..	..	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and polio- encephalitis	..	..	—	—	—
12. Acute infantile encephalitis			—	—	—
13. Cancer	..	..	7	2	9
14. Diabetes	..	..	—	—	—
15. Heart Disease	..	..	5	10	15
16. Intracranial vascular lesions			2	5	7
17. Other circulatory diseases	..	..	3	3	6
18. Bronchitis	..	..	1	2	3
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	2	—	2
20. Other respiratory diseases			—	—	—
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	..	—	—	—
22. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	—	—	—
23. Appendicitis	..	..	—	—	—

Registered Causes of Death—continued.

				Males	Females	Total
24.	Other digestive diseases	..	..	—	—	—
25.	Nephritis	..	..	1	—	1
26.	Puerperal Causes	..	..	—	—	—
27.	Premature Birth	..	..	—	—	—
28.	Congenital debility, malformation, and birth injury	..	..	1	1	2
29.	Suicide	..	..	—	1	1
30.	Road traffic accidents	..	..	—	—	—
31.	Other violent causes	..	..	1	—	1
32.	All other causes	..	..	2	1	3

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations have been carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The following specimens were examined :—

	1945			
Swabs	4
Blood	1
Faeces	1
Urine	—

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—Infectious cases are removed by the ambulance of the Joint Hospital Board. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by the ambulance under the administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The Desborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association provides the services of two whole time nurses. Details of the work carried out during 1945 are as follows :

General	Cases Nursed.			Total
	Midwifery	Maternity	Visits	
156	7	37	3370	

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Child Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The County Council is the Authority for the treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market Street, Kettering.

Orthopaedic cases attend the Manfield Orthopaedic clinic at Kettering.

Persons suffering from Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kettering and District General Hospital every Thursday evening under the County Council scheme.

Under the Scabies Order, 1941, no cases were reported during the year 1945.

Diphtheria Immunisation : From 1941 free immunisation against diphtheria was offered to all children from 1-15 years of age.

The numbers immunised were as follows :—

	<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1941	92	467	559
1942	58	33	91
1943	84	63	147
1944	59	4	63
1945	34	—	34
	327	567	894

The percentage of children immunised up to December 31st, 1945 is :—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years.</i>
71%	69%

As children reach the age of fifteen years they are excluded from the percentage of immunised children.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Although the rainfall for the past three years has been below the average, especially during the winter months, a good supply of water, both from the point of view of quantity and quality has been maintained. At no time was it found necessary to enforce restrictions or curtail the supply.

Two bacteriological examinations of the supply were made, one after a wet period and the other during a dry spell, and in both cases the analyst's remarks were " very satisfactory."

A chemical examination shewed the water, apart from being very hard, to be of good quality and safe for drinking purposes. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

The Council has, since 1943, been responsible for the local R.A.F. Station's water supply, averaging 60,000 gallons per day. It was pointed out to the Air Ministry that should a drought be experienced, the Council's supply would not be adequate to meet the demand of Desborough and the Air Force Station. Therefore the Air Ministry had to secure another supply to augment the existing one. Eventually a deep well at Oakley belonging to Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds of Corby was requisitioned by the Air Ministry. An extension of the pumping main from Pipewell to Oakley was made and the pumps at the two stations were made to work automatically. Owing to the very dry winters it was not long before the above was brought

into use and it was necessary to use this source to maintain a continuous supply at the R.A.F. Station and Desborough.

Approximately a seventh of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the town, are served by standpipes in the yard or at the back of the houses. The water service is direct to all other dwellings. Five farms being a long distance from the service are without a piped water supply.

Sewage Disposal.

Since 1943 the sewage from an American Camp, Braybrooke Road, has been pumped into the combined sewers of the Council and treated at the Sewage Disposal Works. The average daily flow was about 17,000 gallons per day. No detrimental effects to the sewer or works have been noted. The latter have been well maintained considering the amount of labour that has been available. The effluent has been uniformly good throughout the year.

Sewage sludge for allotment purposes has again been in demand and 99 loads were delivered by the Council.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year 234 inspections were made. 35 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No Statutory notices were necessary. Labour and materials were available for the execution of all work in connection with the foregoing.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The Council continued the policy of entering into an agreement with the Northamptonshire War Agricultural Executive Committee for them to deal with rats at the Refuse Tip and Sewage Disposal Works. These two sites are being kept fairly free from these vermin.

The sewers have been inspected and no traces of rats could be found in the sections examined.

Rat poison bait has been issued to premises requiring it.

SECTION D. Housing.

Eleven houses were commenced during the year by Private Enterprise and none were completed.

Overcrowding.

Three cases of overcrowding remained outstanding.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

81 samples of raw milk were submitted for the examination by the methylene-blue test. 65 were found to be good, 8 moderate and 8 bad. 19 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for the phosphatase test, 13 samples for the methylene-blue test and the results were satisfactory in all cases. 12 samples were also sent for the plate count these also being satisfactory. The samples gave an average count of 3,700 bacteria per millimetre.

Milk Examination. 1945.

Category	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Good	—	6	6	6	8
Moderate	—	—	—	1	—
Bad	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	—	7	6	7	8

Category	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Good ..	7	4	6	4	7	7	65
Moderate ..	1	—	1	3	—	—	8
Bad ..	—	4	—	—	1	—	8
Totals ..	8	8	7	7	8	7	81

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.—Five cases were notified and all were nursed at home and recovered. The small number of cases of Scarlet Fever is noteworthy because a severe epidemic occurred in a neighbouring Urban District.

Measles.—Forty-six cases of measles were notified ; all were nursed at home and recovered.

Whooping Cough.—Two cases were notified during the year ; both were nursed at home and recovered.

Dysentery.—One case of sonne dysentery was notified. The patient was removed to hospital and recovered.

Tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These Regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1945.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and one death occurred from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis After-Care.—The Committee continue to take a great interest in the welfare of patients. The preventive side of tuberculosis is stressed as well as making grants of assistance to the patients.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1945

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	5
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	19	21	4	1	—	—	—	46
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	1	—	1	3	—	20	22	4	2	—	—	1	54

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) 1945

Disease	—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	65 & Over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Measles	1	3	5	11	6	19	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	46	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Totals	1	4	5	11	6	24	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	54	1	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1945

Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	2	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	2	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	—	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1945

Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	1	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	1	—



